IN THE CLAIMS

1-15. (canceled)

16. (new) A method, including steps of

at a first node in a network, distributing digital content to a second node in that network, that digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key those steps of distributing to a second node including steps of

(a) receiving a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

(b) decrypting that first decryption key using a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

(c) decrypting that digital content using that first decryption key;

(d) re-encrypting at least a portion of that digital content using a re-encryption key.

17. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

by a user of that digital content, receiving a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

18. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

receiving at least one of (a) that re-encryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key, at a server having access to that first decryption key.

19. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

receiving that re-encryption key from a server having access to that first decryption key.

20. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

21. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

22. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

that second node includes one or more of:

a node in that network capable of performing those steps of distributing that digital content,

a recipient user,

a presentation device.

23. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

that re-encryption key is responsive to information from that first node.

24. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of renewing or revoking a license associated with that media stream.

25. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one of: (a) that first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key

is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to that digital content.

26. (new) A method as in claim 25, wherein

those licensing restrictions include at least one of:

a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a limited number of presentations allowed for that media stream;

a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of that media stream;

a type of presentation device;

an output format for a presentation device;

a set of specific presentation devices;

a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

27. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

that second node,

a user of that digital content,

a presentation device associated with a user of that digital content.

28. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein steps of distributing digital content to

at least one of: (a) that first node, (b) that second node, (c) a user node

include reading at least a portion of that digital content from physical media.

29. (new) A method as in claim 16, wherein

that digital content includes at least one of:

metadata about that media stream;

some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of that media stream.

30. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

delivering, to a user of that digital content, that digital content in a form being locked against inspection or tampering by that user;

separately delivering, to that user, a license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content, that content key being locked against inspection or tampering by devices other than a selected presentation device owned by that user;

wherein the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking that license using that presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of that digital content is restricted to that selected presentation device.

31. (new) A method as in claim 16, including steps of, at a license server

receiving an indication of distribution of that digital content;

initiating delivery of that first decryption key to that first node;

separately initiating delivery of a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of (a) a user of that digital content, (b) a device for presenting that digital content, or (c) a node in that network.

32. (new) Apparatus including

a physical medium maintaining digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key;

a physical medium maintaining a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that apparatus;

a key decryption element coupled to that first decryption key, that key decrypting element having access to a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being pre-assigned to that apparatus;

a content decryption element coupled to that digital content and to that first decryption key;

a content re-encryption element coupled to at least a portion of that digital content and to a re-encryption key.

33. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port coupleable to a network;

a sending element coupled to that output port and being disposed to send, to an intended user of that digital content, information from which that intended user can use a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

34. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port coupleable to a network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a message directed to a server associated with that digital content or with

rights to that digital content, and (c) information from which that intended server can grant access to a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

35. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an input port coupleable to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port and being disposed to receive that re-encryption key from a device having access to that first decryption key.

36. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

37. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

38. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port coupleable to a network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) that content re-encryption element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message directed to one or more of

a node in that network capable of distributing that digital content,

a recipient user,

a presentation device.

39. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

that re-encryption key is responsive to information from that apparatus.

40. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

at least one of: (a) that first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key

is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to that digital content.

41. (new) Apparatus as in claim 40, wherein

those licensing restrictions include at least one of:

a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a limited number of presentations allowed for that media stream;

a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of that media stream;

a type of presentation device;

an output format for a presentation device;

a set of specific presentation devices;

a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

42. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

that second node,

a user of that digital content,

a presentation device associated with a user of that digital content.

43. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

a device driver for a second physical medium, that second physical medium maintaining at least a portion of that digital content.

44. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

that digital content includes at least one of:

metadata about that media stream;

some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of that media stream.

45. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port coupleable to a network to which a user of that digital content is coupled;

a software element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) that content re-encryption element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message to that user;

wherein

that user is capable of separately retrieving from a device coupled to that network, a license including information granting access to a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key;

that license is associated with a selected presentation device owned by that user;

the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking that license using that presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of that digital content is restricted to that selected presentation device.

46. (new) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an input port coupleable to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port, being disposed to receive an indication of distribution of that digital content, and being disposed to receive that first decryption key;

an output port coupleable to that network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a first message, that first message including information sufficient to access that decryption key associated with that re-encryption key, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a second message, that second message including information suf-

ficient to access a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of that digital content, a device for presenting that digital content, or a node in that network.

47. (new) Apparatus including

an input port coupleable to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port, being disposed to receive an indication of distribution of digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted;

an output port coupleable to that network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a message including information sufficient to decrypt that digital content, (c) a physical medium maintaining a message including information sufficient to re-encrypt that digital content, and (d) a physical medium maintaining a separate message including information sufficient to access a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of that digital content, a device for presenting that digital content, or a node in that network.

48. (new) A physical medium maintaining instructions interpretable by a computing device at a first node in a network, those instructions being disposed to direct that computing device to

distribute digital content to a second node in that network, that digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key;

those instructions to distribute including instructions disposed to direct that computing device to

(a) receive a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

(b) decrypt that first decryption key using a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

(c) decrypt that digital content using that first decryption key;

(d) re-encrypt at least a portion of that digital content using a re-encryption key.

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